THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have introduced a scheme known as "Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities" for development of educational infrastructure for such minorities. Minority Concentration areas have been identified for the purpose and Sambhal in Uttar Pradesh is one such identified minority concentration block.

(b) During the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 grants amounting to Rs. 167.875 Lakhs and Rs. 127.36 Lakhs respectively were released under the Scheme to Uttar Pradesh Government.

(c) With the execution of the approved proposals for the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for the past two years, 172 primary schools and 71 upper primary schools will be added to the existing infrastructure.

[English]

Plebiscite in Kashmir

2389. SHRI CHITTA BASU :
SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO :
SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the reported statement of the British Labour Party for a plebiscite in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the response of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) No such statement has been made by the British Labour Party.

[Translation]

Indira Gandhi Stadium

2390. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA
PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Ab Barat Ghar Bana Diya Gaya Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium" appearing in 'Jansatta' dated December 18, 1996;

(b) whether it is a fact that several stadia of Delhi meant for promoting sports are now being used for other activities; and

(c) if so, the names of the stadia where permission for organising activities other than sports have been accorded and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the stadia are primarily used for sports activities. However, in view of the resource crunch being faced by the Sports Authority of India, non-sports activities viz. art, culture and other social activities have been allowed in a very limited way in Indira Gandhi Stadium, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and Talkatora Swimming Pool Complex.

Funds for Development of Culture

2391. PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :
SHRI ANANTH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a fund has been created by the Government at National level for the development of culture in the country;

(b) the total quantum of funds allocated for this scheme during 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(c) the other sources from where funds are to be collected for this purpose;

(d) the criteria fixed for distributing money from this fund;

(e) the names of institutions to whom the money has been given out of this fund during 1996-97 and the amount thereof; and

(f) the specific purposes for which the same was granted?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government of India have set up a National Culture Fund in terms of a Notification published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 28.11.96.

(b) Contribution of the Government of India, Department of Culture to the National Culture Fund is expected to be Rs. 2 crores during the year 1996-97 and another Rs. 2 crores during the year 1997-98.

(c) The National Culture Fund will accept contributions and grants both recurring and non-recurring, from the State Governments and the Central Government as well as voluntary donations and endowments from any other source. The National